



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development
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USDA OFFERS DISASTER ASSISTANCE TO COUNTIES

WASHINGTON, NJ, - OCTOBER 29, 2004 - United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development announced today the approval of emergency supplemental appropriations for disaster assistance to northwestern New Jersey counties.

Rodney E. Hood, Associate Administrator for the Rural Housing Service, said that the President signed the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Hurricane Disasters Assistance Act of 2005 on October 13. It provides \$68 million to communities in qualifying disaster areas. \$50 million in water and waste disposal grants and \$18 million in Community Facility loans and grants are available for projects in communities affected by hurricanes and tropical storms in calendar years 2003 or 2004. Specifically Sussex, Warren, Hunterdon & Mercer Counties in New Jersey.

“President Bush has directed federal agencies to quickly administer aid to those who have suffered losses due to severe weather conditions,” said Andrew M. G. Law, State Director, Rural Development. “Today’s announcement marks the first program rollout under disaster legislation that provides more than \$3 billion in relief” Law said. Law further stated that “New Jersey applicants for disaster assistance should plan to make application as soon as possible.”

Contact the USDA Rural Development State Office at 856-787-7700 or on the web at www.rurdev.usda.gov/nj

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